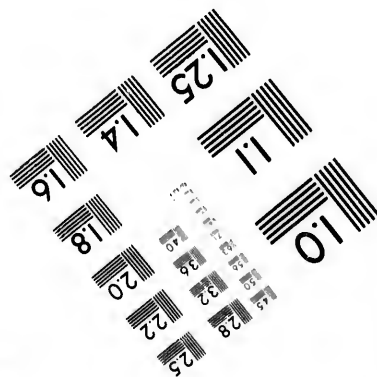
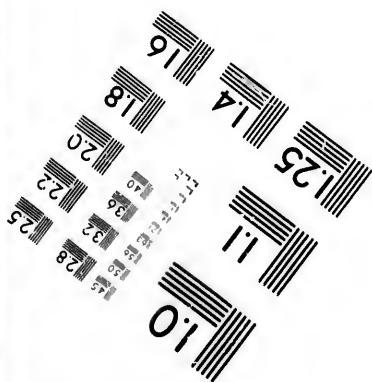
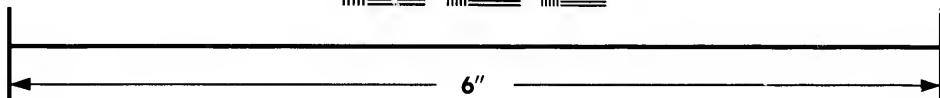
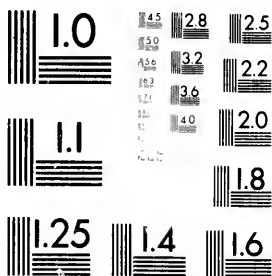


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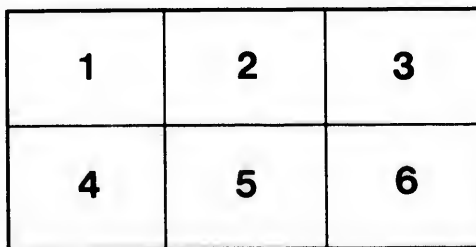
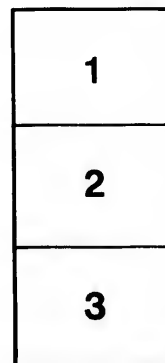
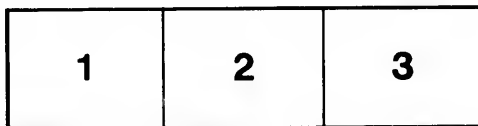
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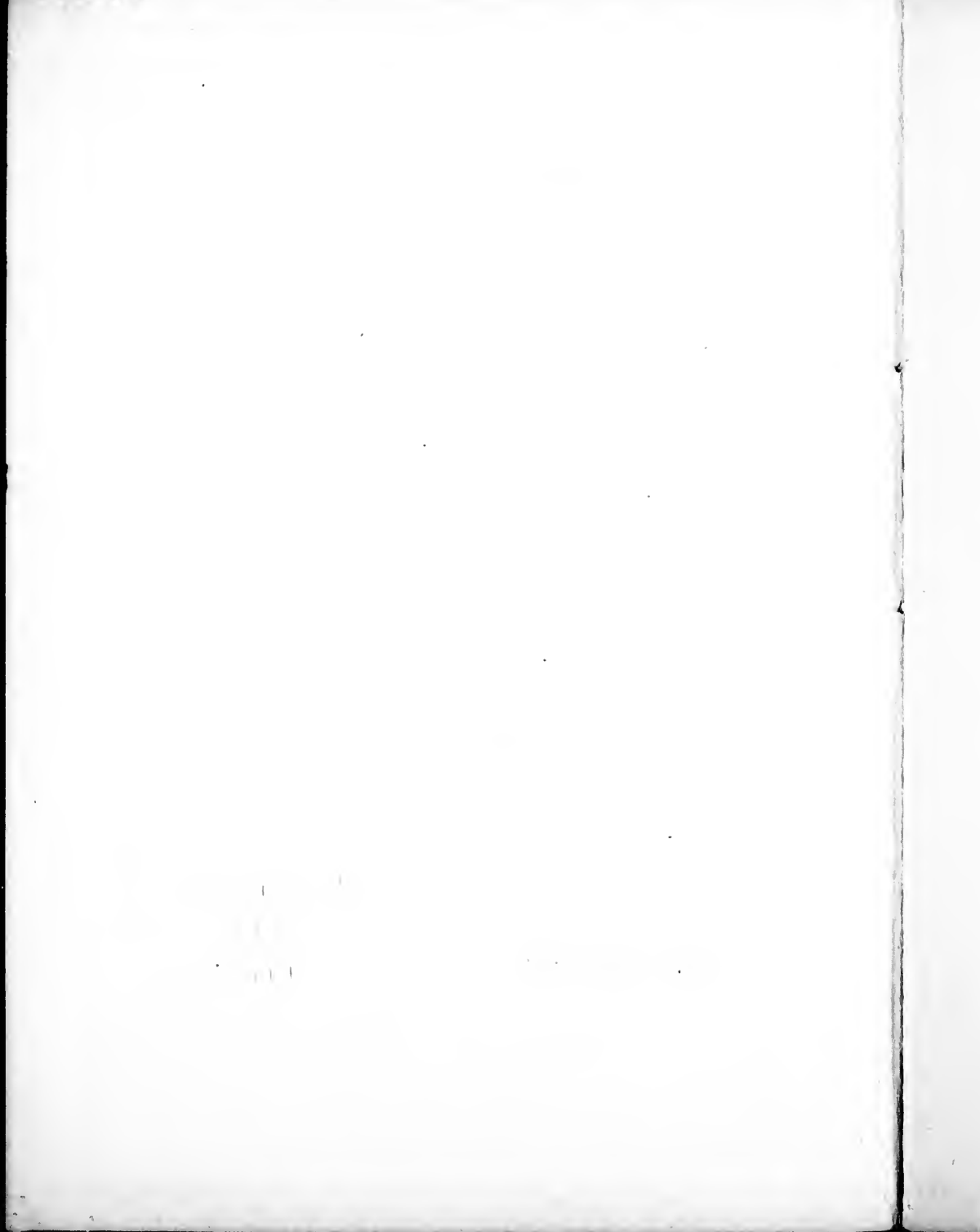
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SOUTH AFRICAN WAR
ITS CAUSES AND LESSONS.

AN ADDRESS
BY
REV. H. JEKILL, B. A.
Rector of St. Mary's, Montreal.

*Delivered in St. Mary's Church, Sunday, February
18th, 1900.*

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We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work Thou didst in their days, in the times of old.—PSALM XLIV, I.

* * * * *

In addressing you this evening upon the South African War, its causes and lessons, I shall endeavour to give you as full and lucid information as possible in dealing with a difficult subject in a very limited time.

I am prompted to address you on this subject because I believe that as citizens of the British Empire and Christian people we should have clear and intelligent views upon a matter of such wide-spread interest and importance as this to which the eyes of the world are now turned, and affecting our country to the extent which this South African war does.

We are all very patriotic, but there is such a thing as blind patriotism. In religion we are counselled to be "able to give a reason of the hope that is in us," and as citizens we should be able to do the same with regard to our country.

It is not sufficient for me as a British subject and an intelligent man to assert with loyal fervour that England is right in the present issue, and at the same time

be unable to give a reason why she is right. It is my duty, so far as I can, to inform myself upon the subject; to get as clear a conception of the whole position as I can, then I am able to form an intelligent judgment as to which is right and which is wrong, and I am able moreover, to defend my judgment by a statement of the facts of the case. This is clearly the duty of every Christian citizen. It is a duty, however, which is greatly neglected.

The right of franchise, for example, is a sacred trust, a means whereby we can do a great deal of good or a great deal of harm, and yet with what blindness that sacred privilege and duty is discharged by many! There are many who never inquire into the merits of the individual or society, but vote on a certain side because their fathers perchance voted on that side, or because influence is brought to bear upon them. There is nothing of intelligence in such a vote, and there is little intelligence in the patriotism of many good people who are willing to make great sacrifices for their country. I know that it is impossible for many to get information on such matters, either through lack of time or inability of access to the necessary literature. It is for this reason that I address you on the subject of the war this evening—that we may have an intelligent grasp of the cause of the trouble and be able to justify or condemn accordingly, for how can we exercise charitable judgment unless we are informed?

Let us consider briefly, first, some of the causes of the war and then pass on to glean a few of the many lessons to be learned from it.



CAUSES OF THE WAR.

In 1486 the Cape of Good Hope was discovered by a Portuguese navigator. Little attention, however, was given to the matter until 1620, when two English officers in the service of the East India Company took possession of the country in the name of England's king. The Dutch then discovering, apparently for the first time, the value of the country, seized it. It was governed by the Dutch East India Company, with a few interruptions, until 1806, when it finally passed into the hands of the British. The government of the country, under the Dutch East India Company was cruel and oppressive. So-called courts of justice must always give judgments according to the will of the company, and a farmer could be deprived of his land at any time and receive no recognition for it. The most trivial offences were punished by the most cruel and repulsive methods of punishment. In 1806, when England got possession of the Cape, she at once set about making much needed reform. Courts of justice, free from corruption, were established; the terrible methods of punishment formerly used were forever abolished, and the people enjoyed justice, freedom and

prosperity under the new regime. In 1834 England liberated the slaves in the Cape, and although the British Government—with generosity unknown by most nations in this same regards—paid the Boers a large sum of money as compensation for the slaves, yet this has always been regarded by the Dutch as an unpardonable offence on the part of Great Britain. The Boers regard the Kaffir as a soulless creature, to be treated only as an article of trade.

The emancipation of the slaves caused the Boers to leave the Cape in large numbers to settle in Natal, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. They were distinctly informed, however, that they were still British subjects. In 1854, at the request of its people, England granted the Orange Free State independence. In 1877 England annexed the Transvaal. The Republic was bankrupt ; it was on the verge of civil war. Moreover, the Zulus, with an army of 40,000 trained warriors, under a powerful chieftain, knowing of the internal weakness of the Republic, were about to avenge themselves upon the Boers for the many depredations, which they had suffered at their hands. In addition to this, a petition signed by a large number of the Dutch voters, was presented to the English Government asking for assistance. In consequence of this, England annexed the Transvaal in 1877. The Zulus, being deprived of vengeance upon the Boers, turned upon the British and the Zulu war followed, in which the Boers took no

part, although England fought that war exclusively on their behalf. When the war was over, to show the dense ingratitude of the Boer character, the Boers, led by Paul Kruger, then an employe of the British Government, at once undertook a rebellion against England. The battles of Laing's Nek, Majuba Hill and Ingogo followed, and a little later the peace of 1881.

It is now generally admitted that the treaty made by Mr. Gladstone in 1881 with the Boers was a mistake. We must all admire the ability of that great statesman, and the intention in making the agreement may have been the very best, but it is nevertheless rightly characterized by the grim term, "the Gladstone skeleton." It was not a permanent settlement of the trouble, but a shifting of it to a time when the Boers, under their artful President, would be better prepared for the conflict. The result is that the Boer Republic has been fortified—largely from revenues derived from English capitalists—and in the year 1900 it will cost England inconceivably more in men and money to finally settle the trouble than it would have cost in 1881.

Every condition of the treaty of 1881 has been broken by the Boers. In that treaty it was agreed that all white people would have equal rights in the Transvaal, that no difference would be made with regard to franchise. The qualification for franchise was to be either that of property or one year's residence in the country. How was this condition fulfilled? Immediately

after the agreement was made President Kruger called his Parliament and changed the residence qualification from one year to five. This was done to exclude all who had come in during annexation.

In 1884 the Republic was again on the verge of bankruptcy—the Treasury was empty. The crafty President turns once more in his extremity to England and issues through the London papers and other channels an invitation to English capitalists and enterprising men to come over to his Republic, telling them of the wonderful advantages which the country offered to men of money and enterprise, and assuring them that they would enjoy equal rights with the Dutch.

Many accepted this invitation. Capitalists invested their money there. The vast mineral resources of the country were developed. Immense revenues flowed into the public Treasury and "Oom Paul" was jubilant over the success of his scheme.

The Uitlanders now naturally looked for the enjoyment of the privileges promised them, viz.: a voice in the government of the country. This, however, was absolutely refused, and the Parliament, under its false and deceitful President, again changed the residence qualification, making it fourteen years instead of five. At the expiration of fourteen years the President had the power to veto any vote.

This, of course, was a great disappointment to men having large financial interests in the country. The

Government was absolutely in the hands of the Dutch, and many of the high officials could neither read nor write. The unsatisfactory condition of the Uitlanders was intensified by the heavy taxes imposed on them, the object of the Dutch being to get the entire revenue of the country out of these foreigners and thus be released from any responsibility in the matter of taxes themselves. A large part of the revenue thus derived was devoted to the arming of the country for that struggle with England which President Kruger had apparently determined upon. Can we wonder, under such circumstance, at the Jameson raid of 1895? The Uitlanders were driven to desperation through the injustice and unreasonableness of the Boer Government.

I wish to say, however, that the British Government had nothing to do with the Jameson raid. It was a movement which had its conception, was arranged and carried to its disastrous issue, entirely amongst the Uitlanders of Johannesburg and other parts of the Transvaal, assisted by individual sympathizers, an independent flag being adopted to show that the movement had no connection with any Government. Can we wonder, however, that England demanded of the Boer Government that the conditions of the treaties of 1881 and 1884 be complied with? Nay, rather is the British Government not to blame for delay in the matter? Through desire for peace England has allowed the Boer Government to violate its agreement and

thereby handed her subjects over to a system of tyranny and misrule. Surely it was high time for her to awake to her responsibility in the matter. England endeavoured to the very last to bring about a peaceful solution of the difficulty. It was the Boers who took the first aggressive step, breaking off negotiations and invading British territory. The war was actually precipitated on England, and it would appear that the British Government could not possibly avert it and retain its integrity.

It appears to have been the policy of President Kruger and his Parliament to show their contempt for England by breaking, *in toto*, every treaty made with her, and as far as possible to use her capital and her subjects for their own selfish ends. Let us now consider a few of the many lessons to be gleaned from the war.



LESSONS OF THE WAR.

The first lesson suggested is :—

The unity of the British Empire: This is a valuable lesson which the war has taught us—a lesson which all the diplomacy in the world could not have brought out. That which affects England affects every one of her colonies. The pulse of every one of her subjects throughout the vast Empire throbs in sympathy with the Old Mother Country. At the first announcement

of the war from the remotest corner of every colony the best of the strength, vigor, youth and manhood stood forth and offered to defend with their lives the cause of the aged mother. What a grand sight! What an inspiring sight! Think of the thrill which swept over our fair Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the north to the south! Instead of thousands, tens of thousands of the flower of our land were ready to defend old England with their strong arms and manly lives. It is true that through some delay in the Government, Canada instead of being first, was nearly last on the list of the colonies to volunteer. It was not, however, because her sons were unwilling or unready, but because of the dilatoriness of the Canadian Government.

It has been thought by many unacquainted with the true attitude of Canadians towards the Mother Country that they are restless and ill at ease, desirous of being released from allegiance to Great Britain. Surely no stronger refutation of such an idea could be given than the noble, loyal action of Canada at the present time. Surely no more convincing answer could be given to those few amongst us who think that Canadian people want independence. NO, we do not want independence. We could never be as happy and as prosperous under any other relationship as we are now. Just think of the freedom which we enjoy! Where will you find a people so free, so happy, so

prosperous as we in Canada are? Where will you find a people so privileged? Think of the protection which we have; the protection of England's army and navy without contributing one cent toward its support! Think of what it costs to support that navy which has made England mistress of the seas; that navy to which Mr. Chamberlain pointed on that memorable occasion—the Diamond Jubilee of our noble Queen—saying to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, “It does not mean a menace to any nation, but it means that England will protect her colonies.” That is the privilege which we Canadians enjoy. Why, what defences we have in Canada have been largely given to us by England. Have not the defences at Halifax on the Atlantic, and Esquimaux on the Pacific been erected and paid for by the Mother Country? Are not the garrisons at those points maintained from England's treasury? We are told that England has spent \$55,000,000 on the defences of Canada. We do not want independence. We rejoice in the fact that we are a part, an integral part, of the British Empire. What touches us touches the Mother Country, and *vice versa*. The Empire is a unit and herein lies her strength. Ancient Rome was almost a world-wide empire, but she had no intrinsic strength. Consequently she soon fell to pieces. Spain, once mistress of the seas, was at variance within herself. She had no unity, consequently she became an easy prey to her enemies, and little by little she fell, until to-day she is almost a nation of

the past. France to-day is broken up into factions bitterly antagonistic to each other, and thus she is bringing about her own destruction.

How we should rejoice in the unity of our great Empire. It is this that makes her great. She is all one—England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India — throughout the length and breadth of her vast possessions she is all one. This, then, is one of the most important lessons which the war has taught us—*the Federation of the Empire*.



It is said by the enemies of England that this war has proved that the British Army has degenerated, that it has lost its traditional invincible character. Not so, that character has been nobly maintained. Mistakes may have been made. Like the Israelites of old before Ai the strength of the enemy was underestimated. Their tactics were underestimated. The natural advantages which the country afforded the enemy and their familiarity with the same were not sufficiently weighed, nor were the preparations made by the enemy taken as fully into account as they should have been. In this regard the British Government may be to blame.

Perhaps some of the Generals blundered in their tactics, we do not know all the circumstances, therefore we cannot judge. But the character and reputation of the British Army with all its noble traditions have been

gloriously vindicated. Our officers and men have fought and died like heroes. Shoulder to shoulder they fought, side by side they fell, ever mindful of the reputation which they must sustain, and counting duty before life itself. Only a private soldier, known by a certain regimental number in life, but a very hero in death.

Like the Romans of old they could say, "*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori,*"—it is a sweet and delightful thing to die for one's country.

"For how can man die better,
Than facing fearful odds;
For the ashes of his fathers,
And the temples of his Gods."

But what of the nation itself? Has England lost her old-time fortitude? Ah, no! When one after another the tidings of reverses came, although inwardly stricken with sorrow because of the loss of so many of her brave sons, and because of the many desolate homes within her borders, yet outwardly she was calm and patient; no sign of impatience or fault-finding or of relaxing purpose. England in adversity proved herself a grander, a greater nation than England in prosperity. Surely this is the best test of a nation's moral strength.

* * * * *

Another important lesson which the war has brought out is the religious fervour which permeates the British Empire.

The evidences which we have in Canada are characteristic of the whole Empire.

The hurry and excitement which prevail do not deter the people in their allegiance to their God. Nay, it proves on the contrary, our confident dependence upon the strong arm of the Almighty. Let me illustrate. I was in the city of Toronto when the first contingent left for South Africa. Special services were held in many of the churches previous to their departure, and on the day after they left a special mid-day service was held in St. James Cathedral, which was filled to the utmost of its capacity with busy business men and others, met to invoke the blessing of God on British arms, and to ask Him to follow with His love and care Canada's brave sons. Throughout the length and breadth of Canada; yes, of the whole Empire, the voice of prayer and supplication is heard, in all our churches, at many a family altar, in the solitude of the private chamber, that voice is heard, and "the God of our Fathers" invoked to be with those brave, noble men at the front and to be our very present help in time of trouble.

Then think of that soul-inspiring sight just before the embarkation of the first Canadian contingent at Quebec, when nearly one half of the entire number knelt in the old Cathedral at Quebec and there received the Consecrated Elements, in obedience to their Divine Lord, thereby perpetuating the memory of

His death and passion until He comes: Surely that service was accepted, and those young men went out from that Sacred Edifice not only wearing the uniform of their Sovereign the Queen of England, but clothed with the whole armour of God, and possessed of that knowledge of perfect security which only the immediate presence of God can bestow.

It has been said that the Church of England emphasises loyalty on the part of her people to the state.

She undoubtedly does, and I am thankful because of it.

It has been pointed out that of the 1000 men who composed the 1st Canadian Contingent about 750, or three-fourths of the whole were Church of England. Well done! We are told that in a certain town in the North West, the Organist in one of our Churches and every male member in the Choir volunteered for the Strathcona Horse, and were accepted. Well done! The Church of England does teach loyalty to the State in every worthy cause. But the Church of England knows a higher loyalty than this worthy and laudable though it be. Above all she teaches loyalty to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He who rules the Armies of Heaven and the inhabitants of the earth, who is at the same time in His Essential Character, the "Prince of Peace."

The Church constantly reminds us of *what* God did for our Fathers—"O God, we have heard with our ears,

and our Fathers have declared unto us the noble works which Thou didst in their days, in the old time before them." We are ever taught to reflect upon God's goodness and power in dealing with our forefathers, who trusted in Him, and when we are thus reminded, we testify that we are still implicitly trusting in the same source—"O Lord, arise, help us and deliver us, for Thy Name's Sake." O Lord, arise, help us and deliver us, for thine honour."

Our Church teaches allegiance to the flag of the British Empire, but above all, she teaches allegiance to the blood stained banner of the Cross, and unfurling it she summons her people to follow their master and King to Eternal Victory.

Some time ago, a gentleman—not of the Church of England—said to me, that he thought the service of the Church grand and inspiring, but he could not understand why we prayed so fervently for peace when there was no sign of war.

I replied, that believing as we do in God as the Supreme Ruler of the Nations of the world, Omniscient and Omnipotent, the One who hears and answers prayer, might we not regard the peace which the British Empire had so long enjoyed as a direct answer to our prayers.

May God hear our prayers now, and send peace.



Lastly, what will the result of this war be? We

believe that England has a righteous cause, and that consequently victory will crown her efforts—that the Transvaal Republic, which has been a detriment to true prosperity, a stain on the map of Africa, will be wiped out forever, and when the Union Jack, the emblem of liberty, floats over Pretoria, then South Africa will rapidly become what the Creator intended it to be—a delightful and prosperous land. We may be well assured that the British Government will not revisit upon the Boers the hardship and oppression under which the Uitlanders have struggled for the past eighteen years, but British freedom and fair play will be given to all, whatever their nationality may be. The Boers will have a voice in the government of the country, but only as British subjects. But above all, and over all, in that vast country, will float the banner of the Cross, which ever accompanies the flag of the British Empire.



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